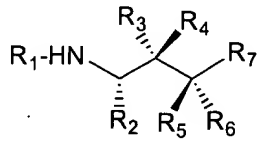
In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2, 4, and 5 without prejudice.

Please enter amended claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 10-19, and 21 and add new claim 23 as follows:

1. (once amended) A protease inhibitor represented by the following structure:



wherein

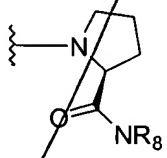
R_1 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, carbobenzyloxy-, carbobenzyloxy-glycine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-alanine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-leucine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-phenylalanine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-serine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-alanine-asparagine-, carbobenzyloxy-threonine-valine- and carbobenzyloxy-valine-valine-;

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2$-Phenyl, and $-CH_2-CH(CH_3)_2$;

R_3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, oxygen and hydroxyl; R_4 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, oxygen and hydroxyl, wherein R_3 and R_4 are not both hydroxyl and wherein R_3 and R_4 are either not oxygen or are a single combined oxygen forming a carbonyl group;

R_5 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, and oxygen; R_6 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, and oxygen, wherein R_5 and R_6 are either a single combined oxygen forming a carbonyl group or both seperately hydrogen;

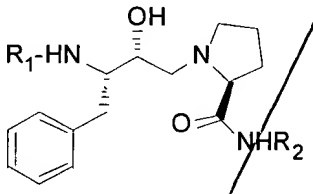
R_7 is a radical represented by the formula:



wherein R_8 is a radical selected from the group consisting of -$(H)_2$, and -H(t-Butyl);

with a proviso that, if either R_2 R_3 is hydroxyl, the R_1 is neither hydrogen nore carbobenzyloxy-.

3. (once amended) A stereochemcially pure protease inhibitor represented by the following structure:

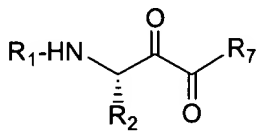


wherein

R_1 is a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, carbobenzyloxy-, carbobenzyloxy-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-glycine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-alanine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-leucine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-phenylalanine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-serine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-threonine-valine- , carbobenzyloxy-alanine-asparagine- and carbobenzyloxy-valine-valine-; and

R_2 is a radical selected from the group consisting of -$(H)_2$, and -H(t-Butyl).

6. (once amended) A protease inhibitor represented by the following structure:

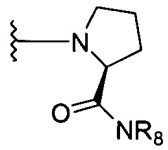


wherein

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of carbobenzyloxy-glycine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-alanine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-leucine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-phenylalanine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-serine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-alanine-asparagine-, carbobenzyloxy-threonine-valine- and carbobenzyloxy-valine-valine-;

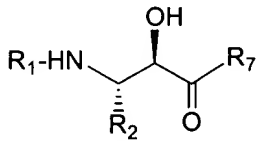
R_2 is selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2$-Phenyl, and $-CH_2-CH(CH_3)_2$;

R_7 is a radical represented by the formula:



wherein R_8 is a radical selected from the group consisting of $-(H)_2$, and -H(t-Butyl).

8. (once amended) A protease inhibitor represented by the following structure:

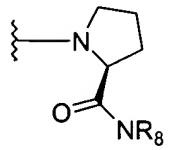


wherein

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of carbobenzyloxy-glycine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-alanine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-leucine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-phenylalanine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-serine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-alanine-asparagine-, carbobenzyloxy-threonine-valine- and carbobenzyloxy-valine-valine-;

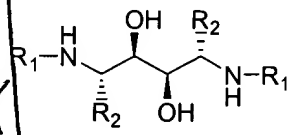
R_2 is selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2$-Phenyl, and $-CH_2-CH(CH_3)_2$;

R_7 is a radical represented by the formula:



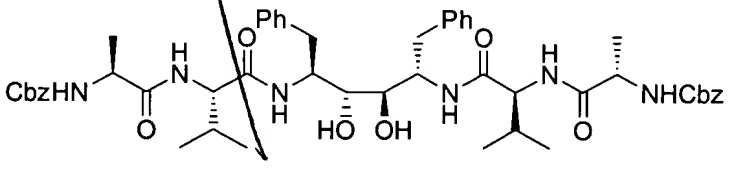
wherein R_8 is a radical selected from the group consisting of -$(H)_2$, and -H(t-Butyl).

10. (once amended) A stereochemically pure protease inhibitor represented by the following structure:

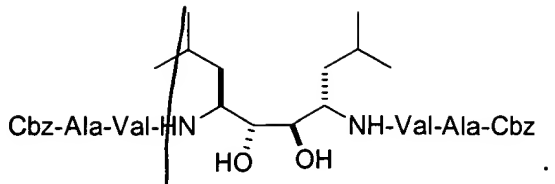


wherein R_1 is a radical selected from the group consisting of carbobenzyloxy-glycine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-alanine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-leucine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-phenylalanine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-serine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-threonine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-alanine-asparagine- and carbobenzyloxy-valine-valine-; R_2 is selected from the group consisting of -CH_2-Phenyl, and -CH_2-$CH(CH_3)_2$.

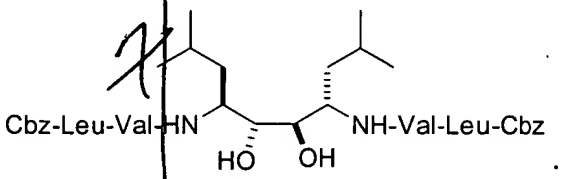
11. (once amended) A stereochemically pure protease inhibitor according to claim 10 represented by the following structure:



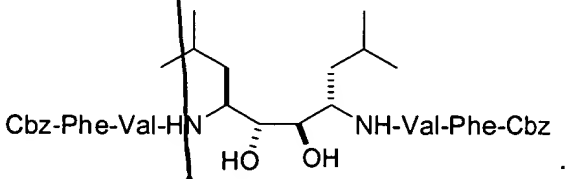
12. (once amended) A stereochemically pure protease inhibitor according to claim 10 represented by the following structure:



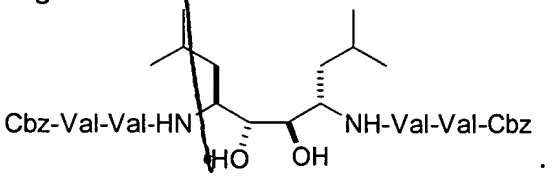
13. (once amended) A stereochemically pure protease inhibitor according to claim 10 represented by the following structure:



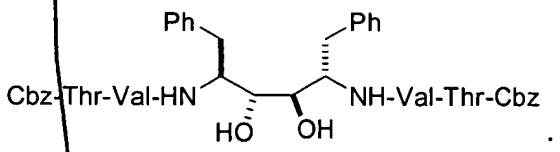
14. (once amended) A stereochemically pure protease inhibitor according to claim 10 represented by the following structure:



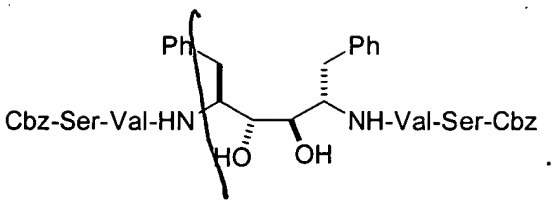
15. (once amended) A stereochemically pure protease inhibitor according to claim 10 represented by the following structure:



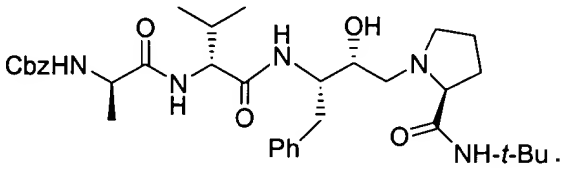
16. (once amended) A stereochemically pure protease inhibitor according to claim 10 represented by the following structure:



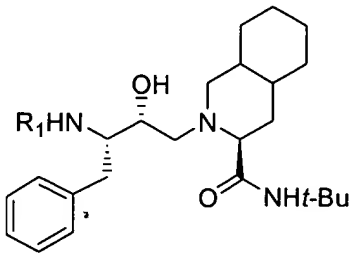
17. (once amended) A stereochemically pure protease inhibitor according to claim 10 represented by the following structure:



18. (once amended)A stereochemically pure protease inhibitor according to claim 3 represented by the following structure:

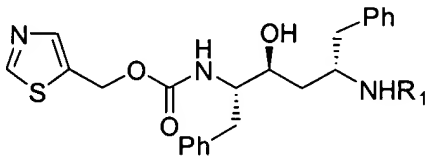


19. (once amended) A protease inhibitor represented by the following structure:



wherein R_1 is a radical selected from the group consisting of carbobenzyloxy-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-glycine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-alanine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-leucine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-phenylalanine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-serine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-threonine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-valine-valine- and carbobenzyloxy-alanine-asparagine-.

21. (once amended) A protease inhibitor represented by the following structure:



wherein R_1 is a radical selected from the group consisting of carbobenzyloxy-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-glycine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-alanine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-